

(The bill will be printed in a future edition of the RECORD.)

Mr. INOUE. Mr. President, I move to reconsider the vote.

Mr. BENNETT. I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate insists on its amendments, requests a conference with the House on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses, and the Chair is authorized to appoint the following conferees on the part of the Senate:

The Presiding Officer appointed Mr. INOUE, Mr. BYRD, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. DORGAN, Mr. DURBIN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. KOHL, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. SPECTER, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. BOND, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. SHELBY, Mr. GREGG, Mrs. HUTCHISON, Mr. BENNETT, and Mr. BROWNBACK, conferees on the part of the Senate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Hawaii.

#### MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. INOUE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to a period of morning business with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### DELAWARE ARMY NATIONAL GUARD

Mr. KAUFMAN. Mr. President, I rise today to welcome home the Delaware Army National Guard's 261st Tactical Signal Brigade from Iraq. Just over 1 year ago, on October 2, 2008, 110 brave citizen soldiers left behind their families in the great State of Delaware to serve their country with honor in Iraq. Nearly 1 year later, on September 30, 2009, all 110 members of the 261st returned to Dover Air Force Base to be reunited with their families.

I am extremely grateful that each member of the 261st has returned safely to Delaware, and I offer them my deep gratitude, respect, and admiration for their service. I know I speak for all Delawareans when I say just how proud I am of their contributions in Iraq.

Under the leadership of the Delaware National Guard Adjutant General, MAJ Frank Vavala, the 261st trained for 1 year to prepare for their deployment. Under the command of BG Scott Chambers they served with distinction at Camp Victory in Baghdad. I had the privilege of visiting the 261st in April and then again in September during my two visits to Iraq. I was enormously proud to see the tremendous work they were doing, and I was honored to spend time with these inspiring men and women from Delaware during my trip.

While in Iraq, the 261st played a critical role as the first National Guard

unit to maintain and administer the communications network. They also ran the Baghdad Signal University which trained Iraqi nationals in communication skills. During each visit, I was impressed by the professionalism and the commitment of the members of the 261st. There is no question that their unique skill set and unwavering commitment greatly contributed to the U.S. mission in Iraq.

As we see progress in infrastructure and security in Iraq, it is due in no small part to the efforts of the Delaware National Guard. The 261st worked tirelessly to share their expertise and knowledge with their Iraqi counterparts, expanding the Iraqi capacity to manage their own communications networks and systems. The families of the Guard can rest assured knowing that despite their great sacrifice over the past year and the difficulties they faced in being separated from their loved ones, the 261st left Iraq a better place because of their service.

The volunteers of the 261st are part of a proud and historic Delaware tradition. For decades, the 261st has served its country with great honor and distinction. Since 1924, it has deployed in times of need, first, as a part of the Delaware National Guard 261st Coast Artillery Battalion. The 261st was activated again on January 27, 1941, to participate in coastal defense operations during World War II. Since then, the mission of the 261st has evolved from defending the homeland to a broader global mission, such as that in Iraq, where it played a vital role in building communication networks and engaging in information operations.

We are truly fortunate as a nation to have so many dedicated volunteers willing to serve on the front lines defending our interests at home and abroad, and I am especially grateful to the 261st for their courageous service.

As we welcome this unit home from Delaware, we also send our prayers for the safe return of all of those serving our Nation in Afghanistan and Iraq.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

#### VOTE EXPLANATION

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. President, due to family-related reasons, I was unable to cast a vote for rollcall vote No. 306, the nomination of Thomas Perez to be Assistant Attorney General, Civil Rights Division, Department of Justice. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" to confirm the nominee.

#### SOUTHGATE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT CELEBRATES ITS CENTENNIAL

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I would like to congratulate the Southgate Volunteer Fire Department for celebrating its centennial this October. Over the past century, the Southgate Volunteer Fire Department has been comprised of numerous men

and women who have dedicated their lives to serving their community.

The record of excellence at Southgate Volunteer Fire Department has made all the difference in reaching this glorious milestone in its history. This year the department won its fourth State Fire Olympics; the State Fire Olympics hosts five different events that test the skills of firefighters and explorer teams. The extensive 3,000 hours spent per year on training has no doubt aided in the achievements made by the department. The Southgate Volunteer Fire Department became one of the first in Campbell County to develop life squads, and it has also been recognized as one of the first in Kentucky to carry semiautomatic external defibrillators.

The strength and dedication of the department was tested at the Beverly Hills Supper Club Fire in May of 1977, surely the most difficult day in its 100-year history. The Southgate Volunteer Fire Department was at the forefront of that firefighting effort and was aided by another 500 firefighters from throughout Kentucky, Indiana, and Ohio. There were 3,800 people rescued from the fire that night, all because of the valor and dedication shown by these heroes.

The department's current chief, John Beatch, manages 75 members of the Southgate Volunteer Fire Department, and in 2004 and 2005 the Southgate Volunteer Fire Department boasted the induction of two previous chiefs into the Firefighters Hall of Fame. Early in 2000, with aid from the State, the department received a new administration office, sleeping quarters, new dress and work uniforms, and two new semiautomatic external defibrillators.

The foundation of excellence that began 100 years ago still stands as the volunteers of this brave department have dedicated their lives to protecting their community. I am confident that tradition will continue on for the next 100 years as the Southgate Volunteer Fire Department continues to keep the people of Kentucky safe. I know all of my colleagues join me in congratulating the men and women of the Southgate Volunteer Fire Department for their service and their heroism.

#### HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

##### CAPTAIN BENJAMIN SKLAVER

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, it is with a heavy heart that I rise today to honor the memory of U.S. Army Reserve CAPT Benjamin Sklaver, who was killed on October 2, when his patrol came under attack in Muscheh, Afghanistan. He was 32 years old.

Captain Sklaver personified the values and qualities of a U.S. Army officer, and dedicated himself to improving his country and helping those most in need, both in uniform and as a private citizen. As a U.S. Army captain, Benjamin Sklaver distinguished himself as a capable and talented leader; and as an employee of the CDC and